

STATE SENATOR • MARK SCHAUER • 19TH DISTRICT

# Schauer Press Release



P.O. Box 30036 • Lansing • Michigan • 48909-7536 • 517-373-2426 • Fax: 517-373-2964  
E-mail: senmschauer@senate.michigan.gov • www.senate.state.mi.us/dem/SD19

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**April 21, 2005**

**Contact: Sen. Mark Schauer**  
**Phone: (517) 373-2426**

## **SEN. SCHAUER INTRODUCES BILL TO** **ESTABLISH DOWNTOWN EXPANSION ZONES** *Legislation will facilitate downtown development*

LANSING – Sen. Mark Schauer (D-Battle Creek) today announced his introduction of legislation that will allow municipalities with Downtown Development Authorities (DDAs) or Tax Increment Finance Authorities (TIFAs) to capture property taxes from their existing downtown development areas to finance improvements in new Downtown Expansion Zones (DEZs). DEZs are areas immediately adjacent to downtown areas.

“These financial incentives will definitely provide support for downtown development and make these areas more desirable for residential, commercial and recreational activity,” Sen. Schauer said. “And that development will produce more jobs and more “cool cities” that Michigan needs for its economic growth.”

To qualify for the program, DEZs must be contiguous to existing development and improvements must be for public facilities that will: attract or retain private businesses in the district; contribute to housing and economic growth; enhance the district’s attractiveness; and help prevent or halt deterioration or property valuation in the area.

To establish a DEZ, communities must apply to the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC). The MEDC has authorized \$50 million in 2005 and 2006 for DEZ projects. There are no geographic restrictions on the projects.

The DEZ legislation, Senate Bill 414, is part of Gov. Granholm’s comprehensive *Jobs Today, Jobs Tomorrow* agenda intended to grow Michigan’s economy by creating jobs and providing security for Michigan citizens.

###

*Mark Schauer is the Senate Democratic Floor Leader. He represents the 19<sup>th</sup> Senate District, which includes all of Calhoun County and most of Jackson County.*